Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EA-09 NEA-10 ISO-00 SIG-02 MMO-04 AF-10 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 ERDA-07 COME-00 DODE-00 EPA-04 INR-07 IO-14 L-03 NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-15 OES-07 SS-15 SP-02 INT-05 /140 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD

SUBJECT: U.S. REGULATIONS ON THE IMPORTATION OF IVORY PRODUCTS AND OTHER PRODUCTS FROM ENDANGERED SPECIES UNCLASSIFIED

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REF: JOHANNESBURG 1669 NOTAL

1. IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER OF FEBRUARY 22, 1977, THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR PUBLISHED REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION BY THE UNITED STATES OF THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD

FAUNA AND FLORA. AMONG OTHER THINGS THESE REGULATIONS REQUIRE THAT ALL COUNTRIES, WHETHER THEY ARE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION OR NOT, PROVIDE DOCUMENTS WHICH SHOW THAT THEIR EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES OF WILDLIFE OR PLANTS LISTED IN APPENDIX I, II, OR III OF THE CONVENTION ARE NOT CONTRIBUTING TO THE EXTINCTION OF THESE SPECIES. THESE DOCUMENTS MUST BE ISSUED BY A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL, NOT A TRADE ASSOCIATION.

2. SECTION 23.14 OF THE U.S. REGULATIONS STATES QUOTE SUCH DOCUMENTS MAY BE IN THE FORM OF AN EXPORT OR IMPORT PERMIT, A LETTER FROM THE PROPER AUTHORITY, OR ANY OTHER FORM THAT CLEARLY INDICATES THE NATURE OF THE DOCUMENT.

SUCH DOCUMENTS MUST:

- (A) BE ISSUED BY AN OFFICIAL OF THE COUNTRY RESPONSIBLE FOR AUTHORIZING THE EXPORT OF SUCH WILDLIFE OR PLANTS;
- (B) SPECIFY THE SPECIES (OR TAXA TO THE RANK LISTED IN APPENDIX I, II, OR III), AND GIVE THE NUMBERS OF WILDLIFE OR PLANTS COVERED BY THE DOCUMENT: AND
- (C) CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT OR ITS EQUIVALENT: I, (NAME OF CERTIFYING OFFICIAL) HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE SHIPMENT OF WILDLIFE OR PLANTS COVERED BY THIS DOCUMENT LINCLASSIFIED

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IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF (COUNTRY), WILL NOT BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE SURVIVAL OF THE SPECIES IN THE WILD, AND, IF LIVING, WILL BE TRANSPORTED IN A MANNER WHICH WILL MINIMIZE THE RISK OF INJURY, DAMAGE TO HEALTH, OR CRUEL TREATMENT. END QUOTE.

3. CALIFORNIA ALSO HAS A STATE STATUTE WHICH PROVIDES FOR THE PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES WITHIN CALIFORNIA. THE CALIFORNIA STATUTE IS PATTERNED AFTER THE FEDERAL ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT OF 1973 AND THE MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION ACT OF 1972, BUT PROVIDES MORE COMPREHENSIVE PROTECTION FOR SOME SPECIES, SUCH AS AFRICAN ELEPHANTS, THAN THE FEDERAL STATUTES DO.

THE CALIFORNIA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE HAS INFORMED THE DEPARTMENT THAT SINCE JUNE 14, 1976, IT HAS BEEN ILLEGAL TO POSSESS WITHIN CALIFORNIA, WITH THE INTENT TO SELL WITHIN CALIFORNIA, ANY PART OR PRODUCT OF AN ASIAN ELEPHANT. THE PROVISIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA ENDANGERED SPECIES LEGISLATION PERTAINING TO THE PROTECTION OF AFRICAN ELEPHANTS ARE MORE COMPLEX. IF IVORY OR OTHER PRODUCTS OF AFRICAN ELEPHANTS WERE IMPORTED PRIOR TO

JANAURY 1, 1977, THEY MAY CONTINUE TO BE SOLD OR OFFERED FOR SALE. AFRICAN ELEPHANT PRODUCTS IMPORTED AFTER JANUARY 1, 1977 COULD BE SOLD OR POSSESSED WITH THE INTENT TO SELL UNTIL JUNE 1, 1977. SINCE JUNE 1, 1977 IT HAS BEEN ILLEGAL UNDER CALIFORNIA LAW TO IMPORT ANY AFRICAN ELEPHANT PRODUCTS FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES.

4. COPIES OF THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE BEING SENT TO POST BY AIRGRAM: (A) DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR'S REGULATIONS; (B) THE CALIFORNIA STATUTE GOVERNING THE PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES; (C) A LETTER FROM THE CALIFORNIA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE WHICH EXPLAINS SEVERAL ASPECTS OF THE CALIFORNIA STATUTE. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Subject: U.S. REGULATIONS ON THE IMPORTATION OF IVORY PRODUCTS AND OTHER PRODUCTS FROM ENDANGERED SPECIES

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